India's Trade expansion programme

46. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's liberalised trades expansion programme is running into difficulties due to increased protectionist policies followed by industrialised countries; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to impress upon developed countries to remove trade restrictions and trade blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) A general protectionist trend has been discerned in some developed countries. India believes that an open and liberal trading system governed by multilateral rules is the most effective check on protectionism. India is participating constructively in the Uruguay Round negotiations with a view to strengthening the multilateral trading system based on non-discrimination and transparency.

Functioning of E.O.Us. and E.P.Zs.

47. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that EOUs and EPZs have become redundant;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment on their present utility; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The working of the EOU/EPZ Schemes is under constant review, and improvements are brought about as necessary. The schemes continue to receive encouraging entrepreneurial response.

Violation of Intellectual property rights

48. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor's report on foreign trade barriers, which says that American intellectual property rights are being violated by India;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the same;

(c) whether it will lead to India continuing on the U.S. Special 301 list of priority countries; and

(d) what effect this will have on Indian exports, particularly, pharmaceuticals and chemicals ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Foreign Trade Barriers Report of the United States Trade Representative for 1993 alleges, inter-alia, weak intellectual property protection, particularly, on patents. Under US law, the USTR is expected to identify, within thirty days of the publication of this report, those countries as priority countries which in the US view, have the most onerous acts, policies and practices.

It has been the consistent policy of Government that there should not be unilateral judgement or action on trade matters and that these should be resolved multilaterally.

FICCI Plan to Boost Exports

49. SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Indian Express dated the 15th March, 1993 regarding "10-point FICCI plan to boost exports";